

Senate Resolution 264

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Thomas of the 54th, Staton of the 18th, Hawkins of the 49th, Hill of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Florence Wald; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of the nation's finest and most
3 distinguished citizens on November 8, 2008, Mrs. Florence Wald; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wald was a registered nurse, former dean of Yale School of Nursing, and
5 is considered the mother of the hospice movement in the United States; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wald had an impressive career before her work with hospice, a history
7 which included her service as a nurse during World War II, a visiting nurse in New York
8 City, a research assistant, and a college instructor; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in 1959, Mrs. Wald became the dean of Yale School of Nursing and, in that
10 position, began her life's work caring for the terminally ill; and
- 11 WHEREAS, during her tenure as dean, Mrs. Wald updated the nursing school curriculum to
12 encourage students to focus on keeping patients and their families actively involved in the
13 care of the patient; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1974, she created Connecticut Hospice, an organized team of nurses, clergy,
15 and doctors dedicated to attending to the needs of dying patients; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wald's entire family was active in the hospice movement; her children
17 became hospice workers, and her husband focused his master's thesis on hospital planning,
18 which served as the blueprint for Connecticut Hospice; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wald delayed her own retirement for many years to spread the hospice and
20 palliative care mission throughout the United States, making hospice available to those

21 incarcerated in prisons and training inmates to become hospice volunteers for dying inmates;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, her great achievements and contributions in hospice care, civil rights, and the
24 rights of women, patients, and veterans have been recognized with her induction in the
25 National Women's Hall of Fame; and

26 WHEREAS, due to the life work of Mrs. Wald, there are approximate 3,200 hospice
27 programs in the United States, serving over 900,000 patients annually, and 168 of these
28 programs are located in Georgia, attending to over 27,000 individuals each year; and

29 WHEREAS, the hospice programs in Georgia are represented by the Georgia Hospice and
30 Palliative Care Organization, which was founded in 1979 to encourage and promote the
31 availability of high quality, compassionate care for the terminally ill and their families.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 join in honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Florence Wald for her dedicated service to the
34 people of this country.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body join in
36 commending the work of the Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Hospice and Palliative Care
39 Organization and the family of Mrs. Florence Wald.